



## News Release

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For Release, July 19, 2012

Mayor Kristen Brown has announced the appointment of Heather Pope as the Columbus Redevelopment Commission Director effective August 13, 2012. Heather has worked for the City of Columbus in the Planning Department for over 16 years and brings a wide variety of experience to the job. The Columbus Redevelopment Commission approved the appointment at a special meeting held July 19, 2012.

Heather's experience in the Planning Department will be a great benefit in her new role. She has worked with developers, realtors and city and county staff on a wide variety of projects and understands the technical and planning needs of development."

Mayor Brown listed the top priorities for the new director. "Heather's priorities will include working with the Columbus Economic Development Board for the continued use of tax increment financing (TIF) to attract companies for investments in job creation; working with the Columbus Planning Department and developers in identifying redevelopment opportunities throughout Columbus, in addition to the downtown; working with the Mayor's Arts Committee on their plan for creating an Arts District in the downtown; and working with the Metropolitan Planning Officer, Laurence Brown, on a parking study to create solutions for the parking issues in downtown Columbus."

The Redevelopment Director oversees all development activities within the city's redevelopment and project areas, including four Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts. The director also works with representatives of real estate, private enterprise, industrial/commercial/ government organizations, community leaders and private citizens to support business growth through development projects.

Heather is currently a Senior Planner in the Columbus Planning Department and has been an Associate Planner, Planning Technician, Planning Assistant and Administrative Assistant with the department, beginning in 1996.

She has a Bachelor of Science in both Business Management and Marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

Heather and her husband live in Columbus with their son.